

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON

Washington Society Looking Around for a Leader

WASHINGTON.—Wanted—For the coming winter season, a society leader. Must be of best American stock, with wealth and attainments. Apply to Washington society, immediately, ready for work.

That is the "help wanted" ad thrown out by Washington society, which finds itself without a leader for the approaching season. "Such a terrible state of affairs!" say the society people of the nation's capital. "Who will lead us during the coming season?"

It seems like a paradox. With a wonderful wealth of material from which to select, this city must be deprived of some woman to lead it in its social whirl. This comes from the fact that the women of Washington are on such good terms that they do not care to generate a spirit of rivalry for the position. Second, most of them have homes elsewhere and are content to let women who are permanent residents of Washington have the honor.

Then, again, there are so many different sets to be led in the Capital City that the social leader who would undertake the entire job would necessarily have to work overtime.

For the first time since President Harrison's administration the national capital is without a first lady of the land. The death of Mrs. Wilson has cast gloom over the social situation. Usually the mistress of the White House plays an important role in bringing the various "sets" together. That in itself is no mean task.

While New York has its four hundred, Washington has these: The diplomatic set, the congressional circle, southern society, the army and navy contingent, the native inhabitants, and others too numerous to mention.

Aside from the aforementioned, Washington boasts in its social curriculum little groups made up from the best people of the various states and territories. For instance, there is the Indiana society and the Michigan society and the Illinois society. To "belong" to either of these groups it is necessary that the aspirant be a native in good standing of either of these states. "No outsiders" is the slogan of all such societies. And there you are.

President May Select a New Summer White House

WHAT to do for a summer White House next year is a problem which President Wilson must soon face. His lease on Harlakenden house, in the Cornish, N. H., pines expires this year, and whether he will see fit to renew it is a secret which he alone shares. His closest friends believe he will select some other place. Moreover, in various sections of the country there are movements afoot to erect or select a permanent summer White House.

As far as President Wilson is concerned the problem of getting such a place causes him little concern. But next year, with only a short session of congress in sight, he may have more opportunity than heretofore for vacationing. This season he has been able to take only a piecemeal vacation. On these occasions he has elected to go to Harlakenden house, where his family has sojourned for several months. And the trips have done him good, brief though they were.

But it is possible that he will prefer a change of scene for his next year's vacationing. If he does, he will have plenty of room for selection. The latest proposal for a summer White House is "Monticello," Thomas Jefferson's old home in Virginia. Representative Levy's willingness to sell this place to the government for a half million dollars has suggested the idea that it would make an excellent place for presidents to sojourn in their off moments. Perhaps the chief advantage of such a scheme would be the accessibility of the place from Washington. In times when the president was not there it could be a Mecca for tourists—as it has been under private ownership.

Then another suggestion for a summer residence of the presidents is the construction of a home at Mount Weather, Va., a government reservation only a short distance from the capital. This spot would be ideal either as a summer home or as week-end vacation place. The president there need not feel that he is "off the job," for its nearness to Washington would make it possible for him to get back to the capital on the shortest notice.

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Uncle Sam Now Conducts a Great Reading Circle

THE first literary society organized under Uncle Sam's auspices is ready to start work. Dr. F. P. Claxton, commissioner of the United States bureau of education, has sent letters to all high school principals and officials of the smaller colleges throughout the United States telling them of a plan to interest all young men and women who want to know the best there is in the literature of the world and who wish to gain the inspiration given by reading the best books.

Uncle Sam's new literary society will be known as the National Reading Circle, and for admission to this circle Doctor Claxton says that it is only necessary to write to the home education division of the United States bureau of education, Washington, D. C., and ask to be furnished information about the reading courses which have been planned under the direction of a group of the best known educators of the United States. Persons desiring to benefit by joining the reading circle are merely asked to give their names, post office addresses, ages and a very brief statement of their education and occupation.

When this brief information is given members of the government's National Reading Circle will be furnished a reading course including the best works in the world's literature. Only serious-minded young men and women are invited to join the government's new organization. The members will undertake to read each of the books which are listed at least twice within the next three years from the time of joining the circle, and to each person giving satisfactory evidence of having read all the books on the list will be awarded a government certificate bearing the seal of the United States bureau of education and signed by the commissioner of education.

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Historic Warship Constellation Attracts Thousands

THOUSANDS of residents of the national capital and visitors go every day to inspect the historic old naval frigate Constellation, now on exhibition at the navy yard, and are intensely interested in the old-time manner of life aboard her, in her guns, made in facsimile of those used a century ago, and in her towering masts and yards, like those that years ago spread many hundred yards of white canvas to the ocean breezes as she sailed from port to port all over the world, proudly showing the flag of the young American republic.

Standing on her quarterdeck, the visitor could mentally picture the day in 1799, when the ship, one of the fleetest vessels of the navy, was in the West Indies, and her crew of several hundred officers and men were moving about the ship performing their daily duties.

From aloft comes the cry, "Sail, ho," and the course of the ship is changed to meet the stranger, which proves to be L'Insurgente, a Frenchman, and at that time an enemy.

The call to quarters is sounded and the guns of the ship are loaded and fired as the gunners on American warships have always known how to do. For an hour and forty minutes the fight is kept up. Then down comes the flag of the French ship and she is a prize to the Constellation, which lost but two killed and three wounded in the fight, while the L'Insurgente had 29 killed and 41 wounded.

An interesting relic aboard the ship is a beautiful porcelain cup and stand, which was presented to Commodore Lawrence Kearny by the officers of the Constellation when he retired from the command of the ship, over a century ago. On exhibition aboard the ship also is an engraving of Commodore John Rodgers, who from the Constellation fired the first shot of the war of 1812. This was presented to the ship at Baltimore during her recent visit there.



ALFALFA HAS MANY VALUABLE QUALITIES



Alfalfa Field, Showing the Use of Canvas Caps for Curing the Crop.

(By A. M. SOULE.)
No forage plant has ever been introduced and successfully cultivated in the United States possessed of the general excellence of alfalfa. On lands to which it is adapted, it will yield from three to eight tons of cured hay, and it is decidedly superior in nutritive qualities to red clover, which is generally regarded as one of the best crops that can be grown on the farm. Alfalfa remains permanently in the soil when well established for periods varying in length from six to ten years, though there are instances on record where it has grown on the same land for fully fifty years.

The growth of alfalfa means the material lessening of the cost of crop growing, because seeding is only necessary once in several years, and thereafter the farmer has only to cut and harvest his crop or pasture it down as his judgment directs. When the hay is stored in the barn he has a foodstuff that will replace a large part of the expensive concentrates which it is now necessary to buy on stock farms to supplement the ration of corn and cereal grains raised on the land. In addition to these virtues it is an enricher of the soil, because it belongs to the famous family of leguminous crops which under certain conditions have the remarkable power of gathering free atmospheric nitrogen and storing it in the soil or building it into their tissues for the nourishment of growing animals, dairy cows and other classes of stock which require large supplies of protein.

These are but a few of the special qualities which commend this plant to the attention of the farmer. Under these conditions it is but natural that men should strive to grow alfalfa, for its successful production would change not only the physical condition of the land on many farms, but greatly improve the financial condition of the owner as well. So many failures have been recorded that some may question

the valuable qualities referred to, but it is only just to say that these have not been exaggerated in any sense of the word, nor can they be exaggerated, for there is no plant which can be cultivated on the farm possessed of a greater variety of desirable qualities than alfalfa. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that those who wish to cultivate it should fully appreciate all its peculiarities, for when once secured it will repay the owner for the striving and heart-burnings to which he was subjected in his efforts to secure a good stand.

During the first year of its growth alfalfa is delicate. It is nothing like as vigorous as red clover, and if the two were sown together the chances are that the alfalfa would be crowded out by its more precocious rival. It is not advisable under any circumstances to sow alfalfa with grass for it will certainly choke it out. After the first year alfalfa is quite hardy and will hold its own fairly well against any of its rivals, provided a good stand is obtained in the beginning. It will be difficult or practically impossible to maintain a partial stand of alfalfa, because where weeds and grass get a foothold they spread rapidly and eventually choke it out unless the field has been established for several years and such plants as remain are possessed of unusual vitality. Where only a partial stand is secured it is better to plow the land up, thoroughly prepare and reseed. Much time and effort have been wasted in attempting to reseed alfalfa on land which was too poor to grow it in the beginning. Alfalfa often fails even though all the physical conditions seem favorable, because the bacteria which live in the nodules on its roots are not present in the soil. This deficiency must be supplied by getting soil from an old alfalfa field or from fields where sweet clover or burr clover has previously been grown with success or by means of artificial culture.

COWPEAS TO FURNISH HUMUS

Soil Deficiency May Be Restored If Crop Is Plowed Under—Roots Go to Considerable Depth.

Why sow cowpeas? Why put acres and acres of land in this legume that was once confined almost exclusively to the South and has now become one of the staple crops that is feeling its way a few miles farther toward the Canadian boundary every year?

I will confess I am a cowpea crank. I am an Arkansas writer in Farm Progress. I don't have the idea that it is the mainstay and the backbone of all farming operations, but I am willing to maintain that it will do more than any other legume we have toward maintaining our soil fertility. I can enumerate a good many reasons why every farmer who can grow cowpeas should grow them.

And among those reasons I want to place the maintaining of our soils first. Maybe they are not so necessary in the deep-south countries, but in shallow soil sections where the hardpan lurks but a few inches under the surface and the clay ribs of the hills show after a few years' cultivation, the cowpea is a greater aid than any other crop.

Take the roots and the stubble. What are they worth in dollars and cents? If you bought the fertility they pull out of the air you would pay from \$2 to \$4 an acre for it. They are humus, fertility, renewed vigor, the promise of immediate results and the hope of many a future yield.

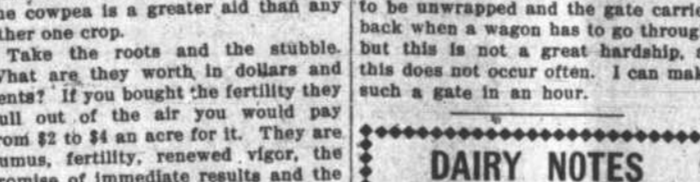
Most of our soils are deficient in humus. They have been ever since we cut the timber off the wooded lands or turned under the original sod of deep rooted prairie grasses. We have neglected the humus side of soil maintenance for a many a long day. The cowpea vines, roots and leaves will help to restore it if we will turn them under. If the pea crop is turned under when full of sap and at the height of its growth it will be worth a great deal to the land.

Men buy subsiding plows and use them. Cowpeas will do much of this necessary work. The roots will do the subsiding, as they reach down and down after moisture and soil stuff. They go to considerable depths and they take with them through the channels in the earth, the air and the rain-water from the upper levels.

CHEAP GATE MADE IN HOUR

One End Is Secured to Well Braced Post With Wire at Top and Bottom—Oak Stuff Used.

The cheap gate shown in the illustration is a very good kind for a farm gate, says a writer in Southern Agriculturist. It is made as illustrated, of 2x2-inch oak stuff fastened together with spikes. One end is secured to a well braced post with wire at top and bottom—Oak Stuff Used.



A Gate Made in an Hour.

an ordinary fence post, well braced, of course, as it is an end post, with wire at top and bottom. The other end is secured to another post by one wire near the middle. The wire has to be unwrapped and the gate carried back when a wagon has to go through, but this is not a great hardship, as this does not occur often. I can make such a gate in an hour.

DAIRY NOTES

- Always cover all large wounds made in pruning with wax or paint.
- A cow is not losing time while lying in the shade chewing her cud.
- As a rule those crops pay best that require the most care and attention.
- If everything else is right and the cream stands too long there will be a loss.
- Keep milk tightly corked from air, from the time it is milked until it is used.
- Butter from over-sour cream becomes rancid quickly and is a drug in the market.
- Keeping all the cows in the barn for a night is cheaper than one case of cow pneumonia.
- When a milk cow begins to shrink her flow don't increase her rations with a rush. The increase should be gradual.
- Success has come to many men because they were constantly looking out for little things that helped them in their work.
- If you are fortunate enough to have skim milk give the calves their share first. It is easier to furnish a substitute for it for pigs than for calves.
- The true dairyman appreciates beauty in the dairy cow and likewise appreciates the fact that a cow was first made to produce milk instead of to win show yard honors.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 29

CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 16:2-8. (Luke 24:39-43.)
GOLDEN TEXT—Surely he hath borne our grief and carried our sorrow; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.—Isa. 53:4.

Last Sunday we saw Jesus on trial before the Gentile power. Today's lesson brings us to the central event of his saving mission to men. We must read all four accounts of this event attentively, reverently, humbly, for it cannot be treated even as other events in the life of our Lord.

I. The Procession to Calvary, vv. 1-21.
"Twas a physically exhausted Christ that left the judgment hall. A night of vigil, mocking, buffeting and without food since the previous evening left him too weak to bear the cross. Then it was that a son of Africa, Simon of Cyrene, was 'Impressed' to bear the burden. The Romans demanded that the victim bear his own cross. He accepted the human help, but renounced the aid of the drug, Matt. 27:34.—Luke gives us at this point the incident of the weeping woman, Mark 15:23 seems to indicate that Jesus had to be assisted to the place of the cross.

On the Cross.
II. The Place, Calvary, vv. 22-27.
Here we see him, the brightness of God's glory and the express image of his person, the incarnation of truth, in whom dwelt the fullness of the God-head bodily—"crucified." Sin had done its worst. The Scriptures are fulfilled, Ps. 22:16, Zech. 12:10. It was necessary for our salvation that he should die exactly as he did, Gal. 3:13; John 3:14; Deut. 21:23. Even the parting of his garments was prophesied, Ps. 22:18. The presence of two malefactors had also been foretold, Isa. 53:12.

III. The Passers-by at Calvary, vv. 28-32.
The people and the priests joined in heaping scorn upon him. Even those that were crucified with him "reproached him." Yet he loved them all. There seem to have been no gibes for the two thieves, John 19:19, II Tim. 3:12. The cry of the mob now is "save thyself" (v. 30). "Twas spoken in mockery, but they spoke a truth, nevertheless: It was necessary for the good shepherd to give his life for the sheep, John 10:11, and by no means to use his power in saving himself. They did not believe on him after the resurrection of Lazarus: is it to be believed that they would have accepted him had he "saved himself?" To have saved himself would have been for him to take himself out of the hands of God—an act of disobedience, and we read that "he was obedient unto death," Phil. 2:8. He was obedient unto death, for death had no hold upon him. He was obedient to the passion and impulse of eternal love.

IV. The Person on Calvary, vv. 33-40.
In the midst of this awful scene, in the confusion of the mingled cry of the mob, there is sounded one note of triumph. As Jesus was thus "lifted up from the earth" (John 12:32), one of those, his companions, ceased to revile him, and cried out, "Art thou the Christ?" and, to be literal, "If so, save us." The other seems to have had his vision cleared, for he rebukes his fellow criminal by saying that their condemnation was a just reward for their deeds. Turning to Jesus he exclaims, "Remember me . . . in thy kingdom." The answer was immediate and significant, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." This is a graphic illustration of the whole meaning and symbolism of the cross. In his undying hour the Savior of men loosed this sinner from his sins and granted him the right to fellowship with him in the life beyond.

Jesus hung upon the cross three hours.
Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned he stood,
Sealed my pardon with his blood.
Hallelujah what a savior.

His Faith Triumphant.
Then God drew the curtain, for even he could not look upon that scene (II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 1:13). We do not believe the eclipse theory, but rather that God caused the darkness, another illustration of the closeness of man and nature, Rom. 8:20, 21 R. V. The dying cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me," was uttered when Jesus sensed the full and complete realization of being separated from the Father. Death is not annihilation, but separation, and Jesus was separated from God the Father because of our sins, Isa. 53:6. Yet in that terrible moment his faith does not waver, for he cries, "My God." Conscious of his personal innocence, but suffering for the sins of others, his faith is triumphant. Other lives have a beginning and an end, this one is "finished." His redemptive work is accomplished and was later sealed by his resurrection. "He gave up the ghost," not a common experience of death, but a fulfillment of his own words, "No man taketh it (his life) away from me, but I lay it down of myself." In deed and in truth Jesus gave up his life. John 19:26-27 tells of the faithful women and of the committal of Mary to the care of "the disciple"—John. Immediately following his death the veil of the temple at Jerusalem was rent from the "top to the bottom." Not by the hand of man and the last symbolic event in the history of the old ritualism is completed. That veil had excluded from God all save the high priest and was the only way of approach to his presence. Now a new and a better way of admission is open and through Christ men need no longer be excluded from God, Heb. 10:19, 20.

OSTEND, FAMOUS WATERING PLACE

OSTEND, as a place for temporary occupancy, is the best place the Germans have captured, writes E. N. Vallandigham in the Philadelphia Record, for its accommodations for transients are, or were, out of all proportion to its size and normal population. If there is ever a time when Ostend has no visitors its population then numbers something under 50,000. During the long season of its summer and autumn vogue, which extends from the first of June nearly to the end of October, there are far more transient than permanent inhabitants. It is a favorite place for Londoners on vacation, but Ostend also shelters contingents of all ranks.

The place is by no means what the awed admirer of his betters calls "exclusive," yet it is utterly unlike any American watering place, popular or otherwise, and it is in acute contrast with that marvelous resort of the Dutch Scheveningen, where the best beach chalets make the foreshore like a vast aply.

Ostend lies in West Flanders, 14 miles from that medieval sleeping beauty, Bruges, the most remarkable survival of older western Europe. A steam railway, a trolley line and a canal connect Bruges with Ostend. To go by canal in one of those slow little power-driven craft that traverse the Belgian interior waterways is to enjoy a charming experience, for the land is rich in varied interest, now occupied by market gardens, now by the villas

North sea glooms beneath your eyes toward England.
On the Bathing Beach.
Ostend has a summer repute for gayety, and daring display at the bathing beach. As a matter of fact, the costumes would hardly shock one hardened to the things that a complaint police tolerate at a hundred American seaside resorts. The squeamish dress with care in the odd little houses on wheels with gay curtains jealously drawn as the lady fully clad steps in. After sufficient time for change of costume has been allowed, the fat Flemish horse, under the guidance of a fat Flemish female companion of the bath, draws the bathing machine into the water, and in due season the fair bather steps into the embrace of the North sea without scandal. When her bath is finished the hut on wheels again receives her, the fat horse laboriously draws her to the dry sands, the lady dresses for leisure and emerges in street costume. Nothing could be more seemly, modest or droll. Elsewhere along the beach one catches sight of ariens in scant, close-clinging, gaudy costumes that reveal every line of the figure as they disport themselves along with their male escorts, but even for these freer ladies the discreet bathing machine awaits, and the curious pry in vain at its uncommunicative wooden sides.

Huge and luxurious hotels, rich wine cellars and a truly magnificent gambling house, the Kursaal, are at the service of the invading Germans.



THE PROMENADE OF OSTEND

of well-to-do Flemings set amid a riot of bloom and amply shaded with trees and shrubbery. Backward the eye takes in the stately towers and spires of antique Bruges silhouetted in soft, air-drawn lines against the tender sky of Flanders.

Old and New Ostend.
There is old Ostend and new, the old with beautiful churches, quaint winding streets, surviving bits as picturesque as parts of Bruges itself. An ample railway station, and many wide and comparatively new streets give even the older part of Ostend a modern touch, and the shore seems wholly modern. Glittering new villas, big and little, salute the eye before one reaches the Ostend of the Londoner's delight, of the cosmopolitan throng, of gayety, naughtiness and wild extravagance. Take some great American seaside resort, transform its huge wooden hotels into sturdy permanent structures of brick and stone, its boardwalk into asphalted ways buttressed with a granite sea wall, clear it of merry-go-rounds and every like catch-penny device of the gash and noisy kind, and you have Ostend of the sea-front.

An ample foreshore lined with those ridiculous bathing machines that Europe cannot outgrow is spread out before the eyes of the loungers on the granite-buttressed bluff above. Thousands walk or sit on the upper level to watch the sea and the bathers. You pay a penny for a chair, whence the

Perpetual Rechristening.

Petrograd will have to change its name several more times to equal the record of Constantinople. The Ottoman capital was known as Lygos unman capital was known as Lygos until B. C. 658, when it blossomed forth into Byzantium and bore that name for close on eight hundred years. Byzantium, like Rome, was built on seven hills, and this resemblance led Septimus Severus to rechristen it Nova Roma. On making the city the capital of the Roman empire Constantine the Great bestowed his own name upon it, and ever since it has been known as Constantinople in the west and world. This name, however, is ignored by orientals, who have called it Istanbul and Stambul since its capture by the Turks in 1453.

Special Constables in London.

The commissioner of police for the city of London has asked large business firms to enroll members of their staffs as special constables, says a London Weekly. Such constables are intended primarily for the defense of the buildings in which they are employed, though it might be their duty to assist the authorities in the case of disturbances in their immediate neighborhood. Their duties will be narrower than those of ordinary special constables. They will be called on for service in the event of the regular police being withdrawn to other parts of the country. All banks, food depots, newspaper offices and other buildings likely to be the scene of disturbances are asked to assist the police in this precaution. As far as possible those enrolled will be over the age for military service, so as not to interfere with recruiting for the new army.

Suitable Treatment.

"Those kids of yours are difficult propositions to manage, aren't they?" "Yes; they have to be handled with gloves."

Consolation.

"They say new bread is to be on the rise." "It's got to be where they use good yeast."